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BOROUGH OF

MALDON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

B.V. HASSAN

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,

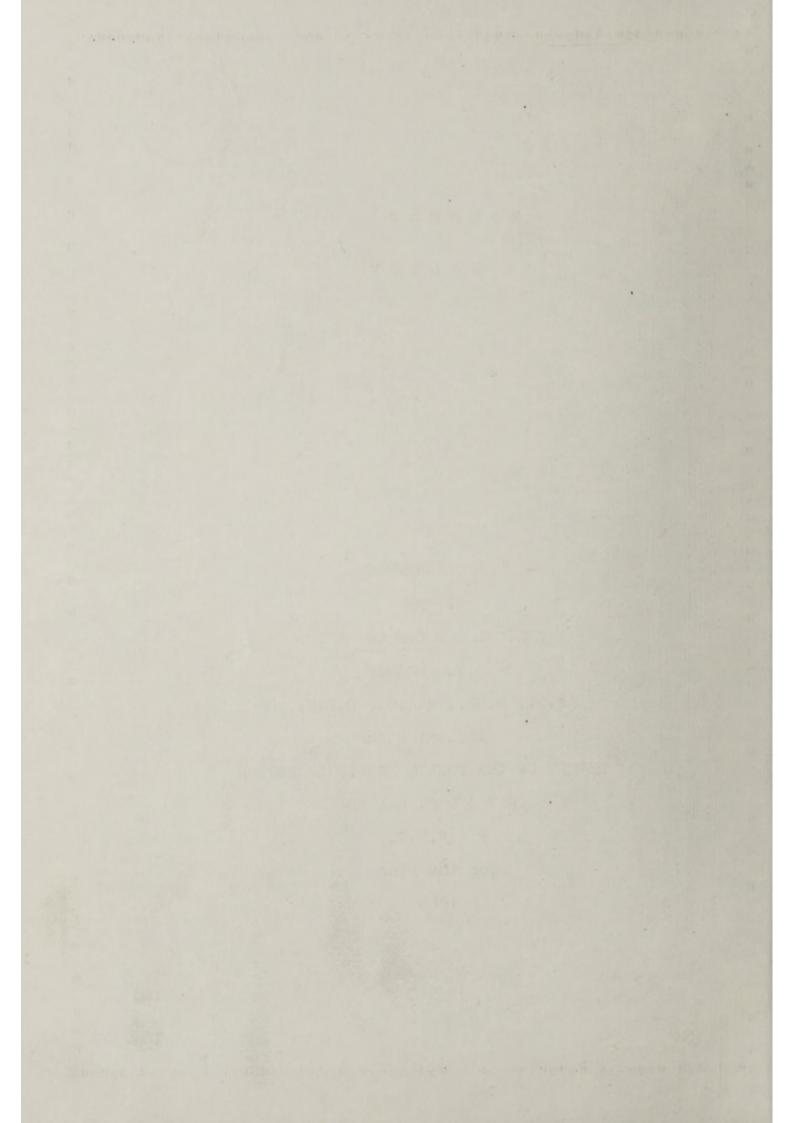
including the

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

RAYMOND A. HALLETT

F.A.P.H.I.,

for the year



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1969

The Worshipful the Mayor (Alderman A.E. Woodward)

CHAIRMAN
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
ALDERMAN
COUNCILLORS

Councillor R.H. Wells.

Councillor Mrs. M.T. Brown.

D.T.K. Tonkin.

R.F. Daws.

C.D. Richardson.

D.B. Sewell,

C.A. Southgate.

A.B. Williamson.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

TOWN CLERK AND SOLICITOR

K.C. Robertson.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

B.V. Hassan, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.,

D.P.H.,

Rural District Council Offices,

America Street, Maldon. Telephone Maldon: 2356.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Raymond A. Hallett, F.A.P.H.I., Municipal Offices, Market Hill, Maldon. Telephone Maldon: 2226.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Maldon.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Borough for the year 1969 compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, and Circular 1/70 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The health of the people of Maldon during 1969 can be reported as generally satisfactory. However, mention must be made of some of the communicable diseases of which the incidence is shown in the table.

In the last four months of the year a total of 19 cases of Infectious Hepatitis (Infective Jaundice) occurred, mostly in the Heybridge area. Three members of each of two families suffered from the disease, two members of one other family were affected and the other cases were in separate families. The disease was mainly mild but the convalescence usually prolonged. Food could not be blamed as the source of infection and person-to-person spread of the virus either by direct or indirect contact or droplet infection must be presumed. The disease has some rather unusual characteristics. Firstly there may be a period of up to seven weeks between a person acquiring the infection and showing the typical jaundice, and during at least part of this time, though not himself sick, he is infectious to others. And secondly not all those who become infected with the virus develop jaundice. From this it will be clear that control in the general population is difficult and the only advice that can be given is careful attention to personal hygiene especially the washing of hands after toilet use and before eating, and the avoidance of coughing and sneezing without the use of a handkerchief.

The figures for one other infectious disease are worthy of note mainly to expose the fallacy of drawing conclusions from statistics of a relatively small population such as that of Maldon. Reference to the last two columns of the table will show that the incidence rate of Leptospirosis in the borough is over one hundred times the rate for England and Wales. To put this in its proper perspective it means only that one of the total of 28 cases of Leptospirosis notified nationally in 1969 lived in the borough. In fact he became infected outside Maldon when he fell into a river known to be infested with rats.

The number of live births during the year (239) were 16 fewer than in 1968, but the adjusted birth rate at 19.4 per 1,000 population was nevertheless well above the England and Wales figure of 16.3. The stillbirth rate was below the national figure.

There was, compared to 1968, an increased crude and adjusted death rate of 15.6 and 10.1 respectively per 1,000 population. The adjusted rate for the borough was, however, still only 85% of that for England and Wales. The infant mortality rate at 4 per 1,000 live births was also well below the national figure of 18. The maternal mortality rate was again nil.

Of the total deaths 104 (51%) were due to diseases of the heart and circulation, including strokes. Cancers accounted for a further 43 (21%) and, as last year, almost one third of these involved the lung or bronchus. There were three accidental deaths (only one was a motor vehicle accident) and three suicides. Of all those dying during the year 58% were aged 75 or over.

My thanks are due to the Public Health Inspector and his Secretary for help during the year; to the other officers of the Council for their co-operation; and to my Secretary for her work in compiling this report.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

B.V. HASSAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

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0		
General Data	((=7	16 (57)
Area (in acres)	6,653	(6,653)
No. of Houses (Mid year)	4,543	(4,410)
No. of Houses per acre (average)	0.698	(0.664)
No. of Persons per house (average)	2.84	(2.86)
Rateable Value	£580,190	(£544,914)
Product of a penny rate	€ 2,380	(£ 2,250)
General Rate in the pount (Dwelling houses only)	14/10	(13/7)
Population		
Resident population (Registrar Generals mid year estimate)	12,920	(12,640)
Increase over previous year	280	(630)
Percentage increase	2.2	(5.2)
Natural increase (excess of births	7.77	()
over deaths)	37	(93)
Increase due to immigration	243	(537)
DIDMIO		
BIRTHS (a) Line Pinths		
(a) Live Births	F	
Legitimate 123 (126)	105	(119)
Illegitimate 4 (5)	_7	(5)
127 (131)	112	(124)
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population	18.5	(20.2)
Adjusted birth rate " " "	19.4	(21.2)
Birth Rate England & Wales per 1,000 population	16.3	(16.9)
Ratio of adjusted birth rate to national rate	1.19	(1.26)
Illegitimate live births - % of total live births	5	(3.92)
(b) Stillbirths		
Legitimate 2 (-)	_	(-)
Illegitimate (-)	_	(-)
2 (-)	-	(-)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	8	(-)
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 England & Wales	13	(14)

(c) Total Births (Live & Still)				
Legitimate Illegitimate	125	(126) (5)	105 7	(119) (5)
	129	(131)	112	(124)
DEATHS				
(a) All Ages	M		F	
	110	(73) tal 202	92	(89)
Crude death rate per 1,000 population		15.6	(12.8)	
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population		10.1	(8.6)	
England and Wales per 1,000 population		11.9	(11.9)	
Ratio of adjusted Death Rate to National	Rate	.85	(0.72)	
(b) Deaths of Infants				
(i) Under one year of age (Infant	deaths	1)		
Legitimate Illegitimate	1	(1)	-	(1)
Total	1	(1)	1	(1)
	,	(!)	,	(1)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		4	(8)	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales		18	(18)	
			(10)	
(ii) Under four weeks of age (Neon	atal d	leaths)		/ . \
Legitimate Illegitimate	1	{1}	=	(1)
Total	1	(1)	-	(1)
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births		4	(8)	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births England		40	(40.7)	
and Wales (iii) Under 1 week of age (Early neo	noto7	12	(12.3)	
Legitimate	1	(4)	_	(1)
Illegitimate	_	(-)	-	(-)
Total	1	(1)	-	(1)
Early Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births		24	(8)	
Early Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales		10	(10.5)	

(iv) Perinatal mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under one week of age combined)

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 12 (8)

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths,

England and Wales 23 (25)

(c) Maternal mortality (deaths of women ascribed to pregnancy or childbirth, including abortion).

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths - (-)

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths England and Wales

0.19 (0.24)

NOTE Figures in brackets relate to 1968.

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MANTATATA	1	
TACTIVITIES OF	1	
TACTIVITIES OF	1	

		Notifice	1 (0)
	Under 1	7 - 4	110
Measles	2	0	1
Dysentery			
Scarlet Fever			
Whooping Cough	-	6	
Infective Hepatitis	-	2	
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis			
Paratyphoid Fever			
Typhoid Fever			i
Food Poisoning	1	-	
Leptospirosis	1	1	i
		-	1

Incidence rate per 10,000. population.	England and Weles	29.1	4.5	3.3	1.0	4.8	2.0	0.002	170.0	0.03	1.5	900.0
Incidence r per 10,000.	Meldon M.B.	3.1	1	1	15.5	15.5	0.8	1	-	1	0.8	0.8
	Total	4	1	1	20	20	-	1	1	1	-	-
groups	25 and over				-	5	1				-	-
to age	15 - 24				2	1	1				ı	1
Notifications according to age groups	9 10 - 14 15 - 24				3	1	1				I	1
cations	5 - 9				9	12	-	-			1	1
Notifi	1 - 4	2			6	2	-				-	1
	Under 1	2			1	-	1				1	1

			19			

CAUSES OF DEATH

01100330	de de de la companya	M	ale	Fer	male	To	tal	
B.19(2) B.19(3) B.19(4) B.19(6)	Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine Malignant Neoplasm, Lung,	1 46	(-) (-) 2) (-)	1 - 3 5	{ - } { - } { 2 } - }	1 1 7 11	{ -} { -} 4 -)	
B.19(7) B.19(8) B.19(9) B.19(11) B.20 B.21 B.46(3) B.46(4)	Bronchus Malignant Neoplasm, Breast Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	11 - 2 - 1 1 -	{ +} -} 1 }	2 3 1 - 4 - 1	('/	13 3 1 2 4 1 1 1	(8) (2) (-) (8) 1) (1) (1)	
B.27 B.28 B.29 B.30. B.46(5)	system etc. Hypertensive Disease Ischaemic Heart Disease Other forms of Heart Disease Cerebrovascular Disease Other Diseases of Circulatory	2 1 33 2 17	(2) (1) (22) (2) (8)	2 1 21 2 21	(1) (2) (15) (1) (17)	4 2 54 4 38	3) (37) (37) (3) (25))
B.31 B.32	system Influenza Pneumonia Bronchitis and Emphysema Other diseases of Respiratory	8 5	(3) (8) (6)	2 1 8 1	{ 7} { 1} { 7} { 2}	6 1 16 6	(10) (1) (15) (8)	
B.34	system Peptic Ulcer Cirrhosis of Liver Other Diseases of Digestive	1 1	{ 1 } -}	1 1 -	{ 5} { 1} { -}	3 2 1	{ 6} 1 -}	
B.46(8)	System Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary	1	(-)	-	(-)	1	(-)	
B.46(10)	system Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal	2	(-)	2		4	(3)	
В.44	Other causes of Perinatal	-	(-)	1	(2)	1	(2)	
B.45	Mortality Symptoms and Ill defined conditions	7	(-)	-	(-)	7	(-)	
B.E.47 B.E.48	Motor Vehicle Accidents All Other Accidents	1	2 2	1	{ - }	6 1 2	{ 6} 2 1	
B.E.	Suicide and Self Inflicted Injuries	2	(1)	1	(1)	3	(2)	
	Total All Causes	110	(73)	92	(89)	202	(162)	

WATER SUPPLY

Maldon runs its own water undertaking supplied in part from two boreholes 260 and 390 feet deep situated within the boundary. Together these deliver about 600,000 gallons per week and the remainder is purchased to meet the average weekly demand of 3,800,000 gallons.

The water from the town boreholes has a high fluoride content of approximately 5 parts per million and when diluted with the "imported" water the result is a reticulation level slightly below the recommended optimum of 1 part per million.

During the year 19 samples were submitted for bacteriological analysis and all were reported to be of high quality.

Every property in the borough has a piped water supply and in no cases is this by standpipe.

On a few occasions there has been interruption of supply due to inadequate storage capacity. During the year work commenced on a new million gallon reservoir which should remedy this.

Report of Public Health Inspector.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My report on matters within the sphere of public health administration for which I am responsible is submitted for the year 1969.

Environmental Conservation and Planning.

To conserve our environment it is essential that public health and planning be regarded as one subject. Planning functions have too often been considered only in the light of architectural development and harmony with the general layout of the neighbourhood. It is now abundantly clear that one of the foremost considerations must be the effect of the proposed development on the health standards of the environment.

Therefore I am of the opinion that the Health Department must concern itself much more positively with planning proposals and use its knowledge and expertise to the benefit of the community.

General Sanitation

The number of all the various inspections and visits made during the year are set out on pages 15 and 16.

This total of 1558 is fractionally fewer than the previous year, but due to the nature of some of the work, notably the investigation of food and noise complaints, the slight drop in numbers is understandable.

The number of formal complaints was 146, all of which received appropriate attention. This was an increase of 17 on the previous year.

Public Health Acts.

Much routine work concerned with living conditions, cleanliness and general repairs was undertaken. This work also involves the inspection of Council owned properties to remedy insanitary conditions and it is clear that in spite of the enormous improvement in housing conditions, there are still some families who find it acceptable to exist in their own squalor.

Sanitary defects have been remedied by informal action and I am happy to report good working relations with the various property owners and agents.

Housing Acts.

Although it is true to say that the Councils Slum Clearance programme has been completed, action has continued in respect of individually unfit houses.

Only 3 houses were represented as being unfit during the year and orders were made in respect of each of them. The tenants were all housed with a minimum of delay.

The 1969 Housing Act will undoubtedly stimulate all the various facets of housing work. In particular, a survey is to be undertaken of areas of tenanted property, in order to formulate schemes for area improvement. Furthermore it will be necessary to undertake detailed inspection work in connection with Qualification Certificates for rent adjustment. This work should result in a considerable improvement in general housing conditions.

Improvement Grants.

This work is under the control of the Borough Engineer and during the financial year 1968/69 fifty four grants were made by the Council amounting to £15,804.

The complexity of this work and its effect on the standards of housing call for co-operation between those responsible for its administration and the Health Department and this is one of the many instances where multi-disciplinary action can result in the greatest benefit to the community.

The Council have continued to implement schemes to improve Council houses, but in certain instances opportunities have been missed to make these schemes as comprehensive as might have been hoped.

Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Preliminary action was taken in connection with one of the two properties in the Borough, known to be used for multiple occupation.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Further work has been undertaken to eliminate the few remaining pail closets and also to connect existing properties to the new sewers. This work has been slow to progress due to many factors, mainly the technical problems involved.

The Sewage Disposal Works is now settling into a proper rhythm of operation and it is anticipated that the effluent discharged into the River Blackwater will meet the standards required by the River Authority.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The collection and disposal of refuse and the sweeping of streets are under the control of the Borough Engineer.

The use of paper sacks for domestic refuse collection was further extended during the year and in pursuance of a modernisation policy, a further Dennis Compaction vehicle was purchased. It is intended to use paper sacks for all dwellings in due course, the number being added to each year.

So far as vehicles are concerned the Council provided a Central Store and Depot early in 1969 and as a consequence it is now possible to house all vehicles under cover and provide adequate cleansing and washing down facilities, a very necessary provision which has previously not been available.

Efforts have continued to provide additional tipping space adjacent to the sea wall, on the saltings, planning objections have been made and this matter is still under consideration.

Noise.

Activity has continued with respect to the control of noise and the abstement of noise nuisances.

Complaints concerning noise continue to be a regular occurrence and in most instances remedial action has been possible.

Proposals for commercial and industrial development must be carefully vetted, so that potential nuisances from noise can be avoided before conditions arise where abatement of a nuisance is necessary.

Rodent Control.

This work is undertaken for the Council by a Commercial Company under contract and the service is quite satisfactory.

All private dwellings are treated free of charge and during the year ninety eight premises were treated.

Insect Pests.

Ants and Wasps were the most frequent cause of complaint from householders.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963.

Routine work under this Act continued throughout the year and wherever plans for alterations or reconstruction of business premises are proposed, discussion with the developer provides for compliance with the requirements of this Act.

Very few accidents to employees are reported and I am of the opinion that many more accidents occur which go unreported.

Inspection & Supervision of Food.

Food Hygiene.

The promotion of high standards of food hygiene is a continuous process. It involves frequent visits to food premises; repeated instruction of staff and employers and vigilance as to operating conditions.

All this work is very time consuming and nothing like enough time has been devoted to this essential work during the past year.

General Food Premises.

(a) The following is a list of various food premises in the Borough. This town serves as a shopping centre for a large Rural Area and in consequence the number of shops is large in proportion to the population.

Bakers	8
Butchers	10
Catering premises and canteens	31
Confectioners	9
Fish Shops	
Greengrocers	8
Grocers and General Stores	33
Public Houses, Hotels and Clubs	27

- (b) There are 9 premises in the Borough which come within the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
- (c) Inspections of food premises are concentrated on those trades where unwrapped food is handled. Many of the smaller shops deal almost exclusively in wrapped goods, and therefore attention can be less regular.

I am of the opinion that every food premises should be inspected on average, at least 4 times a year. This means approximately 600 inspections per annum, and at the present time this goal is far from attained.

(d) Most of the food which is condemned as being unfit is of the tinned or bottled variety and is disposed of by burial at the refuse tip.

(e) Food Sampling.

The submission of samples of uncooked and cooked meat and other products has been undertaken for some time with satisfactory results.

In 1969, 20 samples of various types of the most suspect foods were submitted for analysis. None of these were found to be unsatisfactory.

Twenty two complaints from customers were made concerning the fitness of various foods, most of which concerned foreign bodies in the food. Detailed investigations were made and appropriate action taken.

Milk and Dairies administration.

The number of premises used as cow sheds and dairies in the Borough are as follows:-

Wholesale Producers 5
Retail Purveyors 23
Pasteurised Milk Dealers

Frequent inspections are made to all premises retailing milk and these have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

Ice Cream.

The number of persons and premises registered under the provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1933 is as follows:

Vendors only 57

During the year, the number of samples taken was nine only. All these samples were submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction test and the results are as below:-

Grade I 5 Grade II 3 Grade IV 1

These results can be regarded as satisfactory, only one sample being below Grade II. The retailer was given suitable advice with regard to the handling and storage of this product.

Meat and other Foods.

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough.

Very infrequent inspections of carcase meat are undertaken at Butcher's premises. A small quantity of unsound meat was discovered as reported hereunder.

Tinned foods are controlled very satisfactorily, voluntary surrender being used to deal with unfit consignments. The following is a summary of the various items disposed of in this way:-

Beef	5 lbs.	Canned Tongue	50 lbs.
Collar Bacon	140 lbs.	Jellied Veal	22 lbs.
Sausages	27 lbs.	Luncheon Meat	10 lbs.
Pork	5 lbs.	Corned Beef	12 lbs.
Lamb	22 lbs.	Canned Ham	204 lbs.
Lambs Livers	40 lbs.	Butter	5 lbs.
Ox Kidney	6 lbs.	Fresh Haddock	14 lbs.
Frozen Packs	104	Shrimps	10 lbs.
Sundry tins,	jars and packs	2,542.	

Registration of Food Hawkers.

The provisions of the Essex County Council Act, 1952 have not caused any problems. These provisions are not used frequently, but at the same time they do serve a useful purpose.

Adulteration.

The Essex County Council are responsible for the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of food adulteration. Close contact is maintained with the County Council Staff and this results in satisfactory supervision.

Miss D. Goodchild (now Mrs. Wearmouth) continued to assist me most ably with the Secretarial work of the Department throughout the year. I also wish to express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and the other Officers of the Council for their support and co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

R.A. Hallett.

Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

INSPECTIONS	No.	IN- FORMAL NOTICES	FORMAL NOTICES	TOTAL COMP- LIED WITH	OUTSTANDI AT END OF INFORMAL-	YEAR
Miscellaneous	185	-	-	-	-	-
Housing Act Inspections (a) Overcrowding (b) Structural Defects (c) Re-inspection (d) Improvement Grants	3 127 173 11	31	-	26	5	-
Public Health Acts (a) Nuisances - Houses (b) Noise (c) Animals (d) Re-inspections	93 24 36 124	32 6 4	=	32 6 4	=	-
Drainage (including nuisances) (a) Drains (b) Ditches	49 7	21	Ξ	21 1	=	Ξ
Water Supply (a) Sampling (b) Inspection of same	19 24	=	=	_ =	Ξ	Ξ
Food Premises (a) Shops (b) Ice Cream Premises (c) Cafes etc., (d) Bakehouses (e) Food samples taken (f) Food complaints	111 22 61 7 29 22	24 4 9 5 18		24 4 9 5 18		
Licenced Premises	6	1	-	1	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	2	1	-	1	-	
Rats and Mice	98	98	-	98	-	-
Insect Pests	10	4	-	4	-	-
TOTAL :	1244	259	-	254	5	-

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Carried Forward	1514	259	-	254	5	-
Camping Ground and Moveable Dwellings	56	6	-	6	-	-
Disinfections	2	-	-	-	-	-
Swimming Pool						
(a) Sampling (b) General Inspections	13 15	-	-	-	=	_
Infectious Diseases	2	-	7	-	-	-
Houseboats	31	-	_	-	-	-
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963.	34	5	-	5	-	-
Departmental Matters						
(a) Dangerous Structures		-	-		-	-
(b) Sewers (c) Refuse Collection	11	7	-	4 7	-	_
Clean Air Act						
(a) Inspections made	21	-	-	-	-	-
Milk and Dairies						
(a) Retail premises (b) Farms	2	-	_	-	-	-
(b) Parmo	,					
Meat Inspection at Shops	4	-	-	-	-	-
Port Health						
Ships Inspected Oyster Fishery	14	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Inspections	25 38	-	-	-	-	-
		004		076	-	
TOTAL:	1558	281	-	276	5	-

Individual Unfit Houses

Name of Property	Date of Order		Houses	Houses		Undertakings accepted.
Various addresses		12	-	9	3	
101, Cross Road, Maldon.		1	1	-	-	Undertaking not to let Sept. 1964.
38, Market Hill, Maldon.		1	-	1	-	Closing Order revoked 1969.
62 & 64, High Street, Maldon.		4	-	14	-	Undertaking not to let Oct. 1966.
176, High Street, Maldon.		1	-	1	-	Undertaking not to let Jan. 1967.
1 & 2, Mill Lane, Maldon.		2	-	_	2	House demolished 1969.
2,4,6 & 8, Station Road, Maldon.		4	-	-	4	
156 & 158, Wantz Road, Maldon.		2	-	2	-	Undertaking not to let Dec. 1967.
9, 11 & 13, Fullbridge, Maldon.		3	_	-	3	Houses demolished 1969.
3, Bridge Terrace, Heybridge.		1	_	1	_	House made fit 1969.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT 1937/61

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)			Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the local authority (ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority	6	3	- 2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding out- workers premises)	_	_	_	_
TOTAL	75	15	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which
Particulars	Referre				prosecution was
	Found	Remedied	to H.M. inspec- tor.	by H.M. inspector.	instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) Sanitary convenience	1	1	_	-	-
(S.7.) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or	-	-	-	-	-
defective (c) Not separate	1	1	-	-	-
for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-	-



